

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A security system and method are provided that relies, in one embodiment, on speech recognition to not only identify but also to validate a user. In use, the system requires a user to initially input information representative of the user at a station. A responsive signal is then generated and validated as representative of the user. Thereafter, a randomly generated challenge phrase appears at the station for the user to speak in response to validation of generated signal. The user then speaks the randomly generated challenge phrase and generates a second signal representative of the spoken response to the challenge phrase. This second signal is then processed for determining what was actually spoken as well as for the voice characteristics of the speaking voice. If a match is made for the two parameters, identification and validation of the user is complete and access is given. Changing the challenge phrase in a randomly generated manner reduces the possibility of an intruder impersonating the voice of a true user.